

116th
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY
COMMUNITY CENTER
55 JEFFERSON AVENUE
JANUARY 5th, 2010 MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Birkner calls the 116th Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 7:00 PM and reads the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board".

2. FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION:

The Colors were presented by the Westwood Police Reserves. Mayor Birkner led those present in the flag salute. The Invocation was delivered by Father Norton.

3. COUNCILMEMBERS - ELECT:

Mayor Birkner announced the receipt of the Certificate of Election for Peter Grefrath for the office of Councilmember.

Peter Grefrath was administered his Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Mayor Birkner. Term expiring 12/31/12. Councilmember Grefrath thanked his family and supporters. At the conclusion of his remarks, Councilmember Grefrath took his seat on the dais.

Mayor Birkner announced the receipt of the Certificate of Election for William Phayre for the office of Councilmember.

William Phayre was administered his Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Mayor Birkner. Term expiring 12/31/12. Councilmember Phayre thanked his family and supporters. At the conclusion of his remarks, Councilmember Phayre took his seat on the dais.

4. ROLL CALL

Borough Clerk Hughes calls the Roll:

Mayor Birkner - present

Councilmember Grefrath - present

Councilmember Miller - present

Councilmember Phayre - present

Councilmember Quinn - present

Councilmember Sciara - present

Councilmember Waneck - present

Borough Administrator Hoffmann - present

Borough Clerk Hughes - present

5. **APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS**

Mayor Birkner entertained motions for the following appointments:

Borough Attorney

Resolution #10-1: Appointment of Borough Attorney – Russell R. Huntington, Esq.

Motion: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Borough Engineer

Resolution #10-2: Appointment of Borough Engineer – Boswell Engineering

Motion: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Councilmember Sciara tendered the motion that all the following Professional appointments be confirmed, via Resolution #10-3. Councilmember Waneck seconded the motion. Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Position	Firm	Designee
Borough Auditor	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins	Gary Vinci, RMA
Risk Manager	Burton Agency	Robert Kanwisher
Public Defender		Christopher Leyden, Esq.
Prosecutor		Edward G. Johnson, Esq.
Bond Counsel	Gluck & Walrath, LLP	Christopher Walrath, Esq.
Labor Attorney		Raymond Wiss, Esq.

6. **MAYOR'S DESIGNATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2010**

Mayor Birkner announced the following Council Committee appointments for 2010:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>
Finance, Admin. & Cap. Projects	Peter Grefrath	William Phayre
Fire & Ambulance	John J Sciara	Cynthia Waneck
Police & Emergency Mgt.	Robert Miller	John J Sciara
Land Use	Cynthia Waneck	Peter Grefrath
Public Properties	William Phayre	Ingrid Quinn
Health & Recreation	Ingrid Quinn	Robert Miller

7. SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2010

Resolution #10-4: Nomination of 2010 Council President:

Councilmember Phayre nominates Councilmember Miller as President of the Borough Council for the year 2010. Councilmember Quinn seconds the nomination.

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Abstain

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

8. PUBLIC FORUM:

Motion to open the Public Forum: Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

No member of the public wished to speak.

Motion to close the Public Forum: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

9. BUDGET MEETINGS:

Mayor Birkner announced that the preliminary work has been done on the 2010 Municipal Budget, and a schedule of Budget Meetings will soon be published in the official Borough newspaper and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Borough website.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Birkner announced that the Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda would be enacted with one motion. Copies of all Resolutions were available to any person upon request. Any Councilmember who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon had the opportunity to do so at this time and said Resolution(s) would be moved and voted upon separately.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions #10-5 through #10-28:

Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes
Councilmember Quinn - Yes
Councilmember Sciara - Yes
Councilmember Waneck - Yes
Council President Miller - Yes

Resolution Titles

- 10-5 OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA
- 10-6 TEMPORARY BUDGET
- 10-7 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010
- 10-8 DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS
- 10-9 AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT SIGNATORIES FOR 2010
- 10-10 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES ON CHECKS
- 10-11 ESTABLISHMENT OF INT. RATES ON DELINQUENT TAXES &
ASSESS.
- 10-12 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND
- 10-13 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR RECREATION
- 10-14 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE
- 10-15 DEPOSITORY OF ATTENDANCE RECORDS
- 10-16 APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER
- 10-17 APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER
- 10-18 MAGISTRATE'S ORDER DESIGNATING VIOLATIONS CLERK
- 10-19 APPOINTMENT TAX ASSESSOR / ATTORNEY - TAX APPEALS
- 10-20 2010 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS
- 10-21 OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS
- 10-22 \$20.00 CHARGE FOR PAYMENTS MADE WITH INSUFFICIENT
FUNDS
- 10-23 \$5.00 CHARGE FOR TAX ACCOUNT REPORTS TO SEARCH
COMPANIES
- 10-24 TAX SALE COSTS
- 10-25 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010
- 10-26 MUTUAL AID – PASCACK VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- 10-27 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY REGISTRAR
- 10-28 APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE DEPUTY REGISTRAR

**11. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS TO VARIOUS
MUNICIPAL OFFICES:**

Robert Hoffmann – Affirmative Action Compliance Official, B-MED, B-MEL & JIF
Commissioner

Karen Hughes - Assessment Search Officer, Local Ethics Official

Denise Holmes - Deputy Borough Clerk

Letitia Candeloro - Court Administrator

Elizabeth Kraus - Deputy Court Administrator

Rick Woods - Recycling Coordinator, Clean Community Coordinator

Sharon Blehl - Right-To-Know Coordinator, Bloodborne Pathogens Coordinator
Stefanie Stokes – Tax Search Officer
James Gines - Borough Historian

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

12. **APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS**

The appropriate Council Liaison announced the following appointments:

Board of Health

Dennis Farrell, 3 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/12
Maria Costello, 3 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/12
Jane Concato, Alt. #1, 2 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/11
Teresa Lardaro, Alt. #2, unexpired term, Expires 12/31/10
Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Library Board of Trustees

Barbara Stewart, 5 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/14
Mayor Birkner, Annual, Expires 12/31/10
Carol Mountain, Mayor's Alternate, Annual, Expires 12/31/10
Geoffry Zoeller, Jr., School Supt., Annual, Expires 12/31/10
Jaime Baker, Supt. Alternate, Annual, Expires 12/31/10
Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Recreation Advisory Board

Chris Codner, 3 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/12
Sherman Taylor, 3 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/12
Don Smith, Alt. #1, unexpired term, Expires 12/31/10
John Bonkowski, Alt. #2, 3 yr. Term Expires 12/31/12
Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Shade Tree Committee

Ginny Sauer, 5 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/14
Councilmember Peter Grefrath (Council Liaison)

Safety Committee - (Annual Appointments)

Det. Sgt. Rod Fortunat, Safety Delegate
Richard Woods, Alternate Delegate
Darren Blankenbush, Member
Gary Buchheister, Member
Raymond Herr, Member
Sylvia Kokowski, Member
Denise Holmes, Member
Christine Compesi, Member
Jack Sauer, Member

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Martha Urbiel, Member

Robert Hoffmann, Member/Borough Administrator

Local Assistance Board

Jaime Baker, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Technology Committee

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Christopher Owens, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

Robert Bicocchi, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

Michael Bieri, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

Vernon McKoy, Alt. #1, unexpired term, Expires 12/31/10

Matthew Ceplo, Alt. #2, 2 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/11

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Historic Commission Board

Michael Lewis, Class C, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

George Mulhauser, Class C, 4 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/13

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Website Committee

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Heritage Society

Councilmember John J Sciara (Council Liaison)

Westwood Municipal Alliance (Annual Term)

Roberta Hanlon

Dr. Geoffry Zoeller

Warren Morrell

Jill Carpino

Westwood Parking Authority

John Oberg, 5 yr. Term, Expires 12/31/14

Councilmember Robert Miller (Council Liaison)

Planning Board

Phillip Cerruti, Class IV, 4 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13

Jaymee Hodges, Class IV, 4 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13

Dan Olivier, Alt. #1, 2 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/11

Peter von Bradsky, Alt. #2, unexpired term, Expiring 12/31/10

William Martin, Class II, Annual, Expiring 12/31/10

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck, Class III (Council Liaison)

Mayor Birkner announced the formation of the Environmental Advisory Committee. He explained the purpose of the Committee. Mayor Birkner asked Councilmember Waneck, who is liaison to the Environmental Committee, to announce the appointments.

Councilmember Waneck noted that she is honored to be the Council Liaison to this board.

Environmental Advisory Committee

Christine Blaney, 1 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/10
Pierre Biscaye, 2 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/11
Yash Risbud, 2 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/11
Gregory S. Mountain, 3 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/12
Michael Ruane, 3 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/12
Chris Balfe, 3 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/12
Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

13. SWEARING IN OF ALL APPOINTEES

Motion to accept all appointed noted above: Council President Miller

Second: Councilmember Grefrath

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Aye

Councilmember Phayre - Aye

Councilmember Quinn - Aye

Councilmember Sciara - Aye

Councilmember Waneck - Aye

Council President Miller - Aye

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

14. APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF POLICE RESERVES

Mayor Birkner invited the 2010 Police Reservists to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office.

Mayo Credle, Capt.

Damon Vincenty

John Brobson, Lt.

Ann Keenan

Michael Amoruso, Sgt.

Willie Brown

Robert Murin

Donna Heil

Shawn Yates

John Inzalaco

Arnold Luna

Joseph Latino

Shaun Walsh

P.O. Matthew McClutchey, Liaison Officer

15. OATHS OF OFFICES, AMBULANCE CORPS OFFICIALS

Mayor Birkner invited Captain Steve Wolf to the dais to be sworn into office by Judge Karch.

Mayor Birkner invited 1st Lt. Bonnie Costello and 2nd Lt. Ruth Ann Lang to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office by Judge Karch.

16. OATHS OF OFFICE, FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

Mayor Birkner invited 2010 Fire Chief Marc Fedorchak, Deputy Chief Christopher Kelley, Sr. Captain Jaymee Hodges, Captain James C. Mawdsley, 1st Lt. Joseph Malley, 2nd Lt. James Voorhis, 3rd Lt. George Carter and 4th Lt. William Haffler to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office by Judge Karch.

17. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Volunteer Emergency Services Hall of Fame:

Mayor Birkner presented plaques to James Voorhis, Volunteer Fire Department, Gary Hanna, Volunteer Ambulance Corps., and Robert Murin, Police Reserves, in acknowledgement of their induction into the Volunteer Emergency Services Hall of Fame.

Each of these recipients was nominated by their peers in recognition of outstanding service.

18. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Text of the Mayor's speech is attached.

19. BENEDICTION

Father Norton gave the Benediction.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Sciara Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: All those present vote in the affirmative. The time was 8:15 PM.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC

Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes

Westwood – 2010

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank everyone for being here tonight at the 116th Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Westwood Mayor & Council. I would particularly like to start out by again congratulating Council members Grefrath and Phayre on their re-election in November. They have worked hard to earn the trust of our residents, and I can tell you first hand that they both work very hard everyday with the best interests of Westwood as their first priority. I very much look forward to working with them during the next year as we continue to keep Westwood moving in a positive direction.

Two years ago I stood here before the residents of the Borough for the very first time and stated that it was an honor and a privilege to be selected to serve as your mayor. After two years - and I can hardly believe that it has already been two years - those words are among the truest I have ever spoken. It has indeed been an honor to represent the residents of Westwood, and an absolute privilege to serve

with the members of the governing body, the municipal staff, all of the volunteer organizations , and each of the fine individuals that demonstrate daily why Westwood is the outstanding community it is widely recognized as.

Two years has gone fast, and in those two years many projects have been completed, many are underway, and others remain on the horizon, some nearer than others to becoming a reality. Two years ago I also stated that it was my intention to serve the residents efficiently , and to do so in a dignified and respectful manner. I believe this governing body has done so without fail, remaining on the path of continued positive progress .

Much of that progress is measured by the accomplishments that were made in 2009. Of course no gains worthy of mention could have been achieved without the talented and dedicated employees of the Borough. As elected officials our tenure can be very short lived – but our staff, well they are here day in and day out, performing the services that our residents rely on. Everything from issuing a simple parking sticker to manning the plows during a

freak June hail storm, our employees always go above and beyond to make sure that Westwood works. They deserve special recognition as a simple “thank you” just doesn’t seem to be enough.

Starting out in 2008 and continuing through 2009 we had many short and long-term goals and we proved that by working together we were able to accomplish these and respond collectively to whatever unanticipated event came our way.

Green Initiatives:

With three hybrid vehicles and two electric cars now in our municipal fleet Westwood continues to drive forward as a leader in green technology and sustainability initiatives both locally and nationwide. It is not just the dollars and cents savings by using alternative fuel vehicles, and those savings are real, it is also the level of environmental awareness and the recognition of our responsibility far beyond Westwood that adds value to the projects we

engage in. Our bio-diesel pilot study has led us to great savings on diesel fuel, which leads to great reductions of carbon output and its effects on atmospheric quality. The waste oil centrifuge we rescued from the trash heap was at first scoffed at by some nay-sayers, but Westwood chose to continue to think in terms of progress and we have reaped the benefits. Other communities have taken notice and are eager to utilize our technology for their own benefit. We have shared our oil with other municipalities, and in turn have received services and products that we have benefited from. We received “turf blankets” from Rutherford to help our recreation fields recover over the dormant seasons and provide lush playing surfaces in the springtime. Recently Tenaflly helped us with the application of “brine” on our streets before a snow fall. That served to make our plowing easier and more efficient resulting in safer streets. Our friends in Tenaflly were delighted to find that not only did the use of vegetable oil save money for them, but it also improved the performance on some of the vehicles that used our oil. The benefits go beyond the simple price of a gallon on fuel. It is absolutely true that for every gallon of

fuel we save through our initiatives is one less gallon we have to purchase, it is one less gallon we have to rely on a foreign source for, and it is one less gallon that we have to think about drilling for in our pristine National Refuge areas or off of our precious coast.

Other advances include the replacement of 550 streetlights with longer lasting more energy efficient bulbs . We look forward to implementing the recommendations of the energy audits on Borough owned properties to further reduce our energy consumption.

The benefits of our initiatives include an arena to cultivate ideas for municipal cooperation. We have seen it, we have done it, and it works. Now we must forge ahead and continue the progress.

Tonight I am very proud that Westwood will institute a new citizen advisory board. Our Environmental Advisory Committee takes shape tonight with an incredibly talented group of volunteers possessing vast professional expertise that will be utilized to help direct our sustainability

initiatives so that those policies will themselves be sustainable far beyond any elected officials term in office. We have also included positions for two student volunteers on this board, and I look forward to working with our school system to assist in the selection process that will for the first time engage our younger population in an official capacity that will help guide Westwood's future efforts toward environmental responsibility.

We look forward to being able to draw on their expertise for many projects including matters such as finding a solution to the chronic flooding issues that affect many homes in town. A great start in that direction was accomplished with the creation of the Pascack Valley Waterway Management Task force made up of representatives from the ten towns in the Pascack Valley Mayors Association, and includes participation from United Water, and the Hackensack Riverkeeper. Our Environmental Board will be invaluable as we seek to regionalize our efforts involving stream cleaning, de-snagging and de-silting operations. By applying for

permits jointly with other municipalities, and by working with our corporate neighbors and environmental advocate groups we can more efficiently coordinate the efforts designed to keep water moving freely through the Pascack and Musquapsink Brooks.

Some may consider these to be small steps, however many small steps make progress and add up to great achievements and great hope for the future.

Two years ago the sewer line that runs along the Pascack Brook began to leak. The bureaucratic process has been painfully slow to get to the point where we are now, but there is finally a solution in the near future. The project has now gone out to bid and we expect work to commence in March of this year with completion in time for the trout spawning season.

Two years ago we began in earnest to develop a real plan for the reclamation and transformation of Westvale Park from an environmental scar into the premiere sports, and family recreation facility that it should be . Simply by

replacing the decrepit and decaying fencing, and making minor repairs to the playing surfaces, we have been able to transform our existing fields at Westvale Park and Hegeman Park into attractive recreation facilities that we can now be proud of. We have for the first time implemented a “Recreation and Open Space” element to the municipal master Plan. That was an important start, one that has helped steer us toward \$ 835,000 in grant funding for our Westvale Park re-birth. I am now hopeful that we will be successful in securing the additional funding necessary to complete this project before the year is out. We know what our needs are, we have a real plan, it is now time to get busy and complete over three decades of dreams and make them a reality. A clean and safe place for residents of all ages to go for a multitude of recreational activities is long overdue.

Services:

We continue to look at a shared services throughout the Pascack Valley to determine how equipment, specific expertise, and resources can be shared so that we may

eliminate duplication of specialized operations and continue to save money. From our “bio-fuel” program, to the inter-local agreement with the Township of Rivervale for the use of our Senior Citizen bus and the most recent acquisition of a new sewer jet for the Pascack Valley towns, Westwood is at the forefront in pursuit of ways for our neighboring communities to work together.

The Pascack Valley Administrators and Superintendents of Public Works have worked together to develop a regional plan for the collection and disposal of leaves as a cooperative effort. The implementation of this plan will be a priority in 2010 and is expected to be able to save the residents of the Pascack Valley approximately \$500,000.

The Shared Services Road Paving program was expanded to include Nine (9) of the ten (10) Pascack Valley communities. We look to 2010 to again continue with this great program.

Westwood also continues a shared services agreement with the Borough of Hillsdale so that our Police Department can use their indoor range for training purposes. Speaking of our Police Department, Westwood has begun the process to obtain “Law Enforcement Accreditation”. Paid for with funding obtained through forfeiture assets, this program application was accepted by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police - Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. Once completed, the Accreditation status will represent that the Borough police department meets the highest standards and operates by the best practices in law enforcement. This will be a lofty goal and will take much hard work to achieve, but we expect this to be completed in October of this year.

With reductions in State Aid, and reduced funding opportunities, the governing body and our finance department worked hard to craft a budget that kept the average municipal tax increase to about two dollars per month. Our tax collection rate continued to be above 98% in a difficult economy that has seen many households

forced to cut back. We begin now to work on the 2010 budget, with the same attention to detail that has kept our municipal tax levy as low as possible while still providing the level of service our residents expect.

A new garbage contract was entered into with savings to the borough projected to be more than \$240,000 over the first three years as compared to our most recent contract. Gone are the Saturday garbage pickups, allowing for a little more peace and quiet in our neighborhoods on weekends. We have also made a change to our recycling program, moving from source separating to single stream recycling for 2010. Now plastics, glass, cans, paper, and cardboard can all be combined in one container making recycling simpler than ever. It is anticipated that recycling volume will increase due to the ease of recycling. It is also anticipated that this change will save at a minimum 30 man-hours per week of DPW staff time. This will allow for the redeployment of personnel to other projects throughout the borough that require time and attention.

Hospital

And now onto what I consider to be the most critical issue facing Westwood. Our most highly publicized challenge has been the fight to re-open a full service, acute care, community hospital in Westwood to replace the former Pascack Valley Hospital .

We have maintained our position and brought our points to Trenton. We took our message to the streets, and our voices were heard at the Certificate of Need Hearing in June. Over 1400 people from throughout Northern New Jersey came out to support the re-opening of the hospital at that hearing and our fight has continued into the voting booths in November. Over 73% of votes cast from fourteen municipalities clearly expressed the recognition of a need for our hospital to be re-opened.

Where we stand today is mired in a legal debate . The fight is not over, and I can assure you that Westwood and our surrounding communities will continue to support the plans by Hackensack University Medical Center to return a

full service community hospital to the Pascack Valley. I wish that I had more updated news to report today, however as of today, I can only offer my continued optimism that once the Certificate of Need application is resumed and all of the facts are heard, Hackensack University Medical Center will be approved to open 128 beds at the former Pascack Valley Hospital. The support of our residents has been vital to this effort and we are counting on their continued efforts to ward bringing our hospital back in 2010. Like I said, the fight is not over and we can never give up.

In closing, I would say that 2009 has been challenging , but the greater the challenge, the greater the reward. I would like to thank all of the municipal employees, volunteers, and elected officials that work hard every day to make Westwood special, and why our community is the dear home to so many. I thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. It truly is my privilege and my honor to be here.

Thank you and may God bless you all .